

T-54

Wye House (Wye Plantation, Wye Farm)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 04-05-2004

Site of National SignificanceWye House, Maryland

Location: Talbot County, on Miles Neck River, 6.9 miles northwest of Easton, via U.S. 33, U.S. 370 and Bruffs Island Road.

Ownership: Mr. and Mrs. Morgan B. Schiller, R.D. 1, Easton, Maryland.

Statement of Significance

Wye House, built in 1781-84 and achieving its final form by 1799, is an outstanding example of a large Southern frame plantation house. Possibly designed by Robert Key, architect and carpenter of Annapolis, Wye House is a seven-part "Roman Country House" composition and it illustrates the transition in style from late Georgian to Early Federal architecture.

History

Construction of Wye House, built for Edward Lloyd IV (1744-96), a wealthy Maryland planter,¹ began about 1781 and the central block and two detached dependencies were completed in 1784. Robert Key, a carpenter of Annapolis worked on the house between 1781 and 1798 and may have also been the designer of the plan. By 1799 the house had assumed its original and present seven-part form: the two detached pavilions had been connected to the central block by means of small one-story hyphens and two one-story end-units had been added to the sides of the pavilions. The portico on the south or front elevation and the large veranda on the north or garden facade had also been added by 1799. The plantation has been in the possession of the Lloyd family since 1658.

Condition

The Wye House is a seven-part composition 151 feet long and is comprised of a tall two-story central block 47 feet wide by 42 feet deep, with two flanking lower two-story symmetrical

¹Tax records for 1783 indicate that Edward Lloyd IV then owned 261 slaves, 11,884 acres of land, 579 hogs, 215,000 pounds of tobacco and 500 ounces of plate.

pavilions, two connecting one-story hyphens, and two one-story large end-units. The center block and pavilions are topped by wide low-pitched gable roofs which are brought out to the main facades as smooth boarded pediments and treated as classical temple motives. The tympanum of both facades of the central block contain a large lunette window. These pediments are framed by four tall chimneys, two located on either side of the main house. The one-story hyphens, each containing one room and a narrow passageway, are covered by pent roofs which cannot be seen from the south or front side of the house. The two corresponding one-story end-units have hipped roofs and their ridge poles parallel the long axis. The west end-unit contained a large plantation office and the east unit a wash room and brick passageway. The west pavilion housed library of 1,000 books on the first floor and there were chambers above; the east pavilion contained the kitchen and servant's quarters.

Of frame construction, the walls are brick nogged and covered on the exterior by clapboards. The central block is five bays wide, the pavilions and end-units are each two, and the hyphens one-bay wide. The corners of the main block have broad unfluted colossal pilasters and those of the pavilions, narrow unfluted colossal pilasters. Small modillions embellish the main cornices as well as the pediments of the central block. First floor windows of the main house have nine over six light sash and those above, six over six sash. All windows have exterior blinds. The center door of the south (or front) facade has a fan transom window under a broken pediment and side windows. The door is flanked by engaged Doric columns and on the outside of the door's side windows are Doric pilasters. The entranceway is sheltered by a small one-story Palladian portico, added about 1799, with four slender columns. The north (rear or garden) elevation of the central block has a one-story covered porch extending across its entire front. This long veranda has jalousies on the sides, six fluted columns with delicate palm-leaf capitals in front, and a slender balustrade on the roof. Added in 1799, the north porch is Early Federal or Republican in style. In the period 1830-60, the door in the north elevation of each hyphen was retrimmed in Greek Revival style and their pent roofs were extended out to cover these entries, but pitched at a lower angle, thereby giving the effect of a flattened half-gambrel. In 1914 the two pavilions had their gable roofs raised about a foot and a half to elevate the ceilings in the second floor bedrooms and also to raise the original three over three light sash second story windows above the floor level. The first floor 18th-century library of the west pavilion was also remodeled into a bedroom.

In plan a central entrance hall extends from the south (front) center door midway through the house, where it intersects

a narrow east-west cross hall that leads to the two wings. The east cross hall (to the right) is wider and beyond an elliptical arch, situated against the south cross hall wall; is a fine late Georgian stair. Also from the right side of the entrance hall--near the front--a door leads into a small office and across the hall is the small south parlor. The north (garden) front of the central block, beyond the east-west cross hall, is occupied by two large rooms: the north parlor to the left and the dining room to the right or east. In the office the wall over the chimney is paneled and the fireplace is flanked by cupboards. The high mantel is carved with a Greek key design. In the south parlor the paneling across the chimney is similar to that of the office. There is a small cupboard to the right of the fireplace and the left side has horizontal paneling of flat sheathing. An eared molding, designed to frame a portrait, outlines the space directly above the fireplace. The hall cornices are carved in Wall of Troy designs. Both the north parlor and dining room, which are connected by an elliptical arched opening with sliding doors, have light cornices and high carved mantels that are surmounted by paneling and eared molding. Both rooms also have "jib" windows--windows whose lower parts are hinged and can be opened for use as doors. The interior of Wye House has several similarities to the Chase-Lloyd House in Annapolis, which Edward Lloyd IV completed in 1774, notably the door escutcheons, drop handles, and flat friezes with curved ends over some inner doors on the first floor. Some of the drop handles are of silver. These interiors are little-altered and are furnished with many original Lloyd 18th century pieces and paintings.

North of the house is a grass lawn about 50 feet wide and 100 yards long. At the northern end of this green is located the architecturally noteworthy Orangerie, a brick structure incorporating within its walls the remains of a earlier similar building. The Orangerie is $85\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, with a central two-story section flanked by lower wings, and in its present form dates from the 1790s. The two-story hipped-roofed central portion is four bays long and has very tall one-story rectangular windows on the first floor. The brick walls are covered with stucco that is rusticated in imitation of stonework and the second story windows are small and square. The flanking hipped-roof wings, each 26 feet and three bays long, are raised one step above grade, and have very tall one-story arched windows. The building was used to grow orange and lemon trees and the center second-story contained a 18th century billard room. The Orangerie still contains a rare example of an original 18th central heating system (hot air duct system). On both sides of the green are original 18th century formal gardens that cover between four and five acres. On the west side of the green stands the Captain's House, which is believed to have been an original dependency of the first Wye House, built by Edward

Lloyd I about 1660-64. This small brick cottage, originally of medieval design with a hall and parlor plan, was remodeled and altered about 1810. The Wye House and its grounds are maintain in excellent condition. Still a operating plantation, the mansion is used as a residence and it not open to visitors.

References: Henry C. Forman, Old Buildings, Gardens and Furniture in Tidewater Maryland (Cambridge, Md., 1967), 51-81; J.M. Hammond, Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware (Philadelphia, 1914), 152-160; Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State (American Guide Series) (New York, 1940), 389; Katherine Scarborough, Homes of the Cavaliers (New York, 1930), 326-333; Wayne Andrews, Architecture, Ambition, and Americans (New York, 1955), 18, 22-23; J. Donnell Tilghman, "Bill for the Construction of the Chase House," Maryland Historical Magazine, March, 1938, 23. Rosamond R. Beirne, "The Chase House in Annapolis," Maryland Historical Magazine, September, 1954; McHenry Howard, "Wye House," Maryland Historical Magazine, December, 1923 (Vol. XVIII, No. 4) 293-299; J. Donnell Tilghman, "Wye House," Maryland Historical Magazine, (June, 1953), 90-107.

Large Photos: Lewis A. Coffin and A. C. Holden, Brick Architecture of the Colonial Period in Maryland and Virginia (New York, 1919), 13. Edith Gaines, "Wye House in Talbot County-Living with Antiques on Maryland's Eastern Shore," Antiques, April 1969, 520-524. Historical American Building Survey; (14 photos, 1935, 1936). (Orangerie, drawings of, 1963).

WYE HOUSE, TALBOT COUNTY, MARYLANDBoundaries of the Historic Site:

Approximately 127.64 acres of land in the shape of a rectangle, including the Wye House Plantation House and its dependencies, starting at the southwest corner at latitude $38^{\circ}50'46''$ N. - longitude $76^{\circ}10'30''$ W., proceeding about 4100 feet to the northeast to the northwest corner at lat. $38^{\circ}51'24''$ N. - long. $76^{\circ}10'14''$ W., then continuing to the southeast about 1600 feet to the northeast corner on the west bank of Lloyd Creek at lat. $38^{\circ}51'19''$ N. - long. $76^{\circ}09'56''$ W., then going southwest about 4100 feet to the southeast corner on the north edge of the county highway at lat. $38^{\circ}50'41''$ N. - long. $76^{\circ}10'13''$ W., then returning to the northeast about 1600 feet along the north edge of the county highway to the beginning, the southwest corner. Precise boundaries, as described above, are recorded in red on a copy of U.S. Geological Survey Map: St. Michaels Quadrangle, Maryland 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), 1942, on file with the Branch of Historical Surveys, Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service.

Total acreage in the Wye House Plantation is about 966 acres.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Wye House, Talbot County, Maryland

The transition from late-Georgian to early Federal is reflected in the Wye House, built 1781-1784 and achieving its final form by 1790. Possibly designed by Robert Key, architect and carpenter of Annapolis, Wye House is a seven-part "Georgian Country House" composition. It is an outstanding example of a large Southern Frame plantation house.

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The plantation has been in the possession of the Lloyd family since 1800. Still an operating plantation, the mansion is used as a residence and is not open to visitors.

NRHP 12/1/80
CWS

Received from N.R. 10-8-81

T-54

Site of National Historic Landmark

Wye House, Maryland

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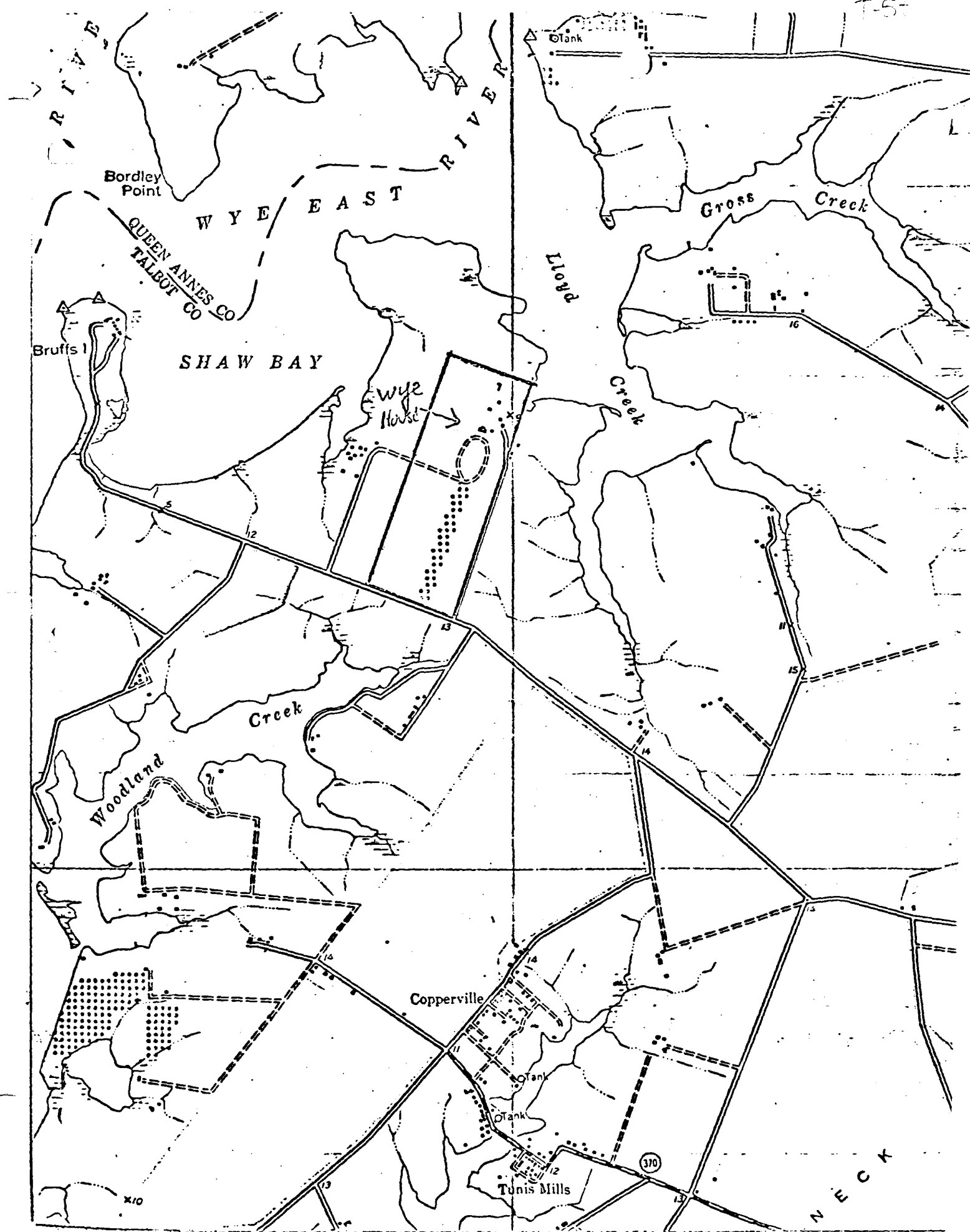
a narrow east-west cross hall that leads to the two wings. The east cross hall (to the right) is wider and beyond an elliptical arch, situated against the south cross hall wall, is a fine late Georgian stair. Also from the right side of the entrance hall--near the front--a door leads into a small office and across the hall is the small south parlor. The north (garden) front of the central block, beyond the east-west cross hall, is occupied by two large rooms: the north parlor to the left and the dining room to the right or east. In the office the wall over the chimney is paneled and the fireplace is flanked by cupboards. The high mantel is carved with a Greek key design. In the south parlor the paneling across the chimney is similar to that of the office. There is a small cupboard to the right of the fireplace and the left side has horizontal paneling of flat sheathing. An eared molding, designed to frame a portrait, outlines the space directly above the fireplace. The hall cornices are carved in Wall of Troy designs. Both the north parlor and dining room, which are connected by an elliptical arched opening with sliding doors, have light cornices and high carved mantels that are surmounted by paneling and eared molding. Both rooms also have "jib" windows--windows whose lower parts are hinged and can be opened for use as doors. The interior of Wye House has several similarities to the Chase-Lloyd House in Annapolis, which Edward Lloyd IV completed in 1774, notably the door escutcheons, drop handles, and flat friezes with curved ends over some inner doors on the first floor. Some of the drop handles are of silver. These interiors are little-altered and are furnished with many original Lloyd 18th century pieces and paintings.

North of the house is a grass lawn about 50 feet wide and 100 yards long. At the northern end of this green is located the architecturally noteworthy Orangerie, a brick structure incorporating within its walls the remains of a earlier similar building. The Orangerie is 85½ feet long, with a central two-story section flanked by lower wings, and in its present form dates from the 1790s. The two-story hipped-roofed central portion is four bays long and has very tall one-story rectangular windows on the first floor. The brick walls are covered with stucco that is rusticated in imitation of stonework and the second story windows are small and square. The flanking hipped-roof wings, each 26 feet and three bays long, are raised one step above grade, and have very tall one-story arched windows. The building was used to grow orange and lemon trees and the center second-story contained a 18th century billiard room. The Orangerie still contains a rare example of an original 18th century heating system (hot air duct system). On both sides of the green are original 18th century formal gardens that cover between four and five acres. On the west side of the green stands the Captain's House, which is believed to have been an original dependency of the first Wye House, built by Edward

More I about 1880-90. This small brick cottage, originally of redwood siding with a bell and parlor plan, was remodelled and altered about 1910. The Wye House and its grounds are maintained in excellent condition. Still a operating plantation, the mansion is used as a residence and is not open to visitors.

References: Henry C. Ferman, Old Buildings, Gardens and Furniture in Talbot County Maryland (Cambridge, Md., 1957), 51-52; J.M. McKim, Historical Landmarks of Maryland and Delaware (Philadelphia, 1914), 187-188; Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State (American Guide Series) (New York, 1947), 309; Katherine Scarborough, Heroes of the Cavaliers (New York, 1934), 328-333; Wayne Andrews, Architectural, Historical, and American (New York, 1955), 18, 22-23; J. Donnell Thompson, "Bill for the Construction of the Chase House," Maryland Historical Magazine, March, 1953, 23. Rosewood E. Beirne, "The Chase House in Annapolis," Maryland Historical Magazine, September, 1954; McHenry Howard, "Wye House," Maryland Historical Magazine, December, 1923 (Vol. XVII, No. 4) 293-299; J. Donnell Thompson, "Wye House," Maryland Historical Magazine, (June, 1953), 90-107.

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T-54



Wye House, Miles River Neck, Maryland
North or garden elevation

T-54



Wye House, Miles River Neck, Maryland

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-54

Magi No. 2100542204

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic WYE PLANTATION

and/or common WYE HOUSE, WYE FARM, OR SIMPLY "WYE"

2. Location

street & number Bruffs Island Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Easton ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mrs. Morgan Schiller

street & number Wye House Bruffs Island Road telephone no.:

city, town Easton state and zip code MD 21601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Talbot County Courthouse folio

city, town Easton state MD 21601

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. T-54

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Wye House and its accompanying outbuildings stand at the end of a long tree-lined lane and circular drive that intersects Bruffs Island Road in the vicinity of Easton, Talbot County, Maryland. The main house, a seven-part late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Georgian and Federal style dwelling is centered on the circular drive, and the orangery or greenhouse is sited slightly off-axis with the house at the end of an expansive green lawn. Both the house and orangery have been extensively described and researched, and their national significance is well known. However, the remaining outbuildings have not received as much attention.

The notable structures that stand near the main house include an unusual single-story dairy, an unconventional smokehouse, a twentieth-century garage, a mid nineteenth-century carriage house, and an early to mid eighteenth-century brick dwelling commonly referred to as the Captain's House. Located farther from the domestic outbuildings is an early nineteenth-century frame tenant house, a mid to late nineteenth-century barn, three late nineteenth-century corn cribs, and two tenant houses.

The Dairy

Standing just east of the main dwelling and surrounded by a brick paved court is the single-story, gable-roofed, frame dairy that now houses the heating system for the house. The early nineteenth-century gable-front frame structure is supported by a low brick foundation, and it is sheathed with a combination of plain and flush weatherboards. Asphalt shingles cover the medium sloped gable roof. Unusual for dairies on the Eastern Shore is its large size and the column-supported front and east walls. The south (main) facade is a three-bay elevation with four square columns supporting a short section of wall and the pedimented gable end. The board doors that open into the dairy interior are fixed in a wall that is recessed under the roof structure. Flush board sheathing covers the tympanum within the pediment. The east side of the building is three-bays deep, and it is open like the front. A small dog kennel has been inserted within the northernmost bay. The north and west sides of the dairy are finished in a more straightforward manner with plain weatherboards. A blocked up window opening marks the north side, and an interior brick chimney rises through the north gable end. Inside, the building has been excavated well below grade to accept a large boiler, and modern materials cover all of the interior wall surfaces.

(continued)

WYE HOUSE OUTBUILDINGS DESCRIPTION (continued)

SMOKEHOUSE

The smokehouse stands due east of the main house along a lane that leads to the north farm complex. The two-part frame structure is supported by a low brick foundation, and it is sheathed with flush beaded edge board siding; some original boards are fastened with wrought nails and some boards are replacements. The medium pitched gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Divided into two parts, the southern section is a narrow two-story structure distinguished by pedimented gable ends. The northern section is a single-story, rectangular structure that has been turned into a garage with a large double-door opening cut in the north end.

The south elevation of the smokehouse is marked by a center board door hung on long interior strap hinges. The former wooden box locks on the interior of the door have been removed. Fixed above the door is a small patched section of wall that indicates a former opening, perhaps a grilled window or vent. The pedimented gable end is finished with flush board sheathing.

The east and west sides of the structure are somewhat alike with patched openings on the first and second floors. The sides of single story section are marked by long narrow slit vents with diamond cross-sectioned bars centered in each opening. A patched door opening is located between the narrow openings on the west side.

The north gable end has been altered with the introduction of a garage bay sized opening for vehicle storage. The gable end is flush.

Inside the structure is completely smoke blackened except for some new rafters and structural elements added to strengthen the building. Originally there were two tiers of lapped collar beams. The floor is paved in brick. Similar to other smokehouses, the structural frame of the building consists of closely set hewn studs with down bracing at principal corners. Wrought nails hold the framing in place. Unusual to this smokehouse is the brick nogging between the studs, much of which has been removed. Stains along the inner face of each stud, however, correspond with the thickness of the nogging bricks. Also evident inside the building is the former location of a stud partition which divided the two parts. Fixed in the south section is the remnant of a rudimentary stair that provided access to the second floor. A board partition remains on the second floor to separate the second floor of the south section from the loft structure of the northern part. All of these elements; the closely set stud walls, the iron bars in the narrow slit vents, the interior placement of hinges and locks, the double tier of collar beams for hanging, and the heavily blackened interior indicate the building was erected to smoke and store large quantities of meat.

THE CAPTAIN'S HOUSE

A few yards northwest of the smokehouse is a story-and-a-half Flemish bond brick dwelling that is known as the Captain's House. Although an exact date of construction is unknown for this building, architectural evidence suggests it was erected during the second quarter of the eighteenth century. Skirting the base of the building is a low watertable. The steeply pitched roof is covered with seamed tin, and the eave is finished with a boxed cornice. Extending to the north is a single-story, five-course common bond brick kitchen wing. The house faces east with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

The east (main) facade is a story-and-a-half, three-bay Flemish bond elevation with a checkerboard brick pattern of glazed headers. A central entrance is flanked by casement-type windows which are topped by jack arches. The center bay, filled with a six-panel front door, is sheltered by a hip-roofed porch supported on square posts. The steeply pitched roof is marked by a single gabled dormer filled with a casement-type window.

The south gable end has been reworked extensively with several bricked up openings. Centrally positioned openings filled with casement-type windows illuminate the first and second floors. The gable end is flush, and it is finished with a plain bargeboard.

The rear (west) facade is marked by random glazed headers in the Flemish bond pattern, and a center door is flanked by the same casement-type windows. A single gabled dormer window lights the second floor.

Partially covering the north gable end is a single-story common bond brick kitchen. The Flemish bond gable end of the main house is pierced by small windows to each side of the interior end brick chimney. The chimney stack is highly unusual with glazed brick highlights and a projecting shaft on its north face. The cap is boldly corbelled. Also different is the asymmetrical angles at which the front and rear roofs tie into the chimney stack. The front (east) slope joins the chimney shaft at a lower point than the rear (west) slope. The gable end is trimmed with a plain bargeboard.

The single-story kitchen, an early nineteenth-century addition, is a one-bay, one-room plan brick structure with an exterior corbelled base brick chimney. The east side of the kitchen is pierced by a door opening with a partially glazed door, whereas the back (west) wall is marked by a six-over-six sash window.

The first floor of the house follows a hall/parlor plan, and it is finished with plastered walls and a combination of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century woodwork. The hearth is framed by an early nineteenth-century Federal style mantel with diagonal and herringbone pattern reeding that enriches the pilasters and frieze blocks. The broken mantel shelf is composed of several bed and crown moldings. Fixed in the corner of the room is an enclosed stair with four exposed steps, but no balustrade. A raised six-panel door does remain along with another six-panel door that opens into the stair closet below. The room is fitted with

molded chair rail and beaded baseboard, however the floor has been completely replaced with diagonally laid narrow strip flooring. The plastered interior partition is pierced by a raised six-panel door framed by a cyma-curve surround. The smaller second room is simply finished with chair rail and baseboard moldings.

At the top of the winder stair the short hall provides access to the two bedrooms that comprise the second floor. The south bedroom, however, was originally divided by a board partition into two equal-sized rooms. Finished with a combination of plastered walls and vertical board partitions, the hall is also fitted with period chair rail and baseboard moldings. Raised six-panel doors framed by cyma curve backband surrounds provide access to each room. A section of plaster has fallen from the ceiling to reveal riven lath fastened with an early type of cut nail.

The adjacent east bedroom is the only bedroom served by a hearth. A cyma curve backband surround frames the firebox, and a thin board shelf has been applied to the top edge of the surround to serve as a mantel. A section of plaster has fallen from the ceiling in this room as well to reveal the roof structure of the building. It appears extensive work in restructuring the roof and collar beams has occurred. Spliced, lightweight pieces of reused lumber and empty mortise pockets in the rafters along with the riven lath and the cut nails suggest an extensive change in the roof structure of this house.

The south bedroom is finished in a similar manner, and a scar along the walls, ceiling, and floor indicates the former location of the center partition.

The interior of the kitchen is simply finished, and a rebuilt cooking fireplace is featured in the north end.

CARRIAGE HOUSE AND GARAGE

Directly east of the Captain's House is a two-story nineteenth-century frame carriage house and a two-story twentieth-century frame garage. The carriage house, supported by a brick pier foundation, is sheathed with asphalt shingles and covered with a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. Facing west the roof of the rectangular building is oriented on an east/west axis. The west (front) facade is symmetrically arranged with a center double-door entrance and flanking single board doors. Each door is hung on long strap hinges. The outer single doors are topped by shallow wooden pediments. Piercing the upper level is a small board door and two blocked up window openings. Shallow wooden pediments top each of these openings as well. The north side of the building is a plain wall covered with asphalt shingles, while the east (back) wall is pierced by a sash window. In addition, a single flue brick stack rises against the gable end. The south side is pierced by a sash window also.

Standing next to the carriage house is a large two-story frame garage, evidently built during the early twentieth century. The large rectangular hip-roofed structure is supported by a poured concrete foundation, and it is sheathed with plain weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched hip is covered in asphalt shingles. The sides are marked by asymmetrical arrangements of board doors and various sized windows.

TENANT HOUSE

The story-and-a-half frame house that stands along the eastern farm lane entrance to the property is also known as the "quarter." The early nineteenth-century weatherboard frame house is supported by a low common bond brick foundation, and it is sheathed with a combination of old and new beaded weatherboards. Covered with asphalt shingles, the steeply pitched roof is finished with flush gable ends and boxed cornices. The west (front) elevation is partially sheltered by a shed roofed porch which covers the front door, and a six-over-six sash window pierces the adjacent wall surface. The roof is marked by a single off-center gabled dormer filled with a six-over-six sash window. The north and south gable ends are different. An exterior brick chimney with corbelled shoulders rises against the north end, while the south end is marked by an exposed firewall of seven-course common bond brick. Lighting the second floor are small four-pane windows on either side of the interior end brick chimney. The stack above the roofline has been rebuilt. The east (back) side of the tenant house is partially covered by a shed roofed one-room addition that contains the bathroom. A four-panel door pierces the wall north of the bathroom, and a gabled dormer with a six-over-six sash lights the second floor. The interior is divided by a plastered partition into two unequal sized rooms. An enclosed stair is fixed against the center partition with access through the living room. The interior is plainly finished with shallow four-panel doors and plain trim. No early nineteenth-century woodwork survives.

BARN COMPLEX

The northernmost buildings of the Wye complex include a board-and-batten frame barn, a tile silo, three corn cribs, and two other tenant houses. Centered in the complex is the barn which faces east with its gable roof oriented on an east/west axis. Supported by a combination of concrete blocks and brick piers, the late nineteenth-century gable-front main barn is a braced frame bi-level structure of circular-sawn lumber. The east (main) elevation is pierced by two large openings that no longer include doors. The upper level is marked by a small door hung on strap hinges as well as a hinged hay loft door. A slight extension of the gabled roof at the peak protects the hay fork apparatus. An early twentieth-century tile silo rises against the north side of the barn and is covered by a wood shingle conical-type roof. Attached to the back of the main barn is a narrower rear section that includes stalls and a large center part intended for hay storage. The center section is comprised partly of an older mortise-and-tenon frame structure that was reused

around the turn of the century when the barn was extended. The westernmost part of the barn is divided into stalls. Attached to the rear section and stretching southward is a long implement shed. Also dating to the late nineteenth century are three corn cribs that stand north and west of the barn. A two-story tenant house dating from the early twentieth century stands east of the barn, and a story-and-a-half frame tenant house is located south of the barn complex.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-54

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☒ national ☒ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Wye House and the orangery have long been recognized for their superior architectural and historical significance to Maryland as well as to the nation. The additional buildings that accompany Wye House include rare and important examples of domestic and farm-related structures that contribute significantly to the historic and architectural qualities of the property as well. As a group they form one of the rarest collections of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, twentieth-century buildings in the state.

The Wye house dairy is unlike most Eastern Shore examples with its columned front and east sides. Probaby built in imitation of the main house the classical pediment is a feature that few dairies can boast. The exterior remains largely true to its historic appearance, however the interior has been extensively changed to provide space for a heating apparatus for the main house. Nevertheless, the dairy, bordering a brick paved court, is an important survivor of the upper range of dairies built on a prosperous Eastern Shore plantation.

The nearby smokehouse is probably unique in Maryland and largely intact, aside from the double-door sized opening cut in the north gable end. Although some historians have speculated on the original use of this building, the extant features point clearly to the processing and storage of meat for a large plantation. Closely studded walls, the interior placement of strap hinges and large locks, grilled openings, and a heavily blackened interior all indicate the buildings's former use as a smokehouse. The two-story south section, fitted with pedimented gables, repeats the classical motif of the house and dairy. Both the smokehouse and the dairy also reflect the interest of a few landowners to build practical, everyday outbuildings in more than a strictly utilitarian manner.

The Captain's House has been significantly altered through the years but the Flemish bond brick walls and the decorated chimney appear to date to the second quarter of the eighteenth century. A glazed brick checkerboard pattern highlights the east (main) facade, and glazed headers are found randomly in the other walls. The unusual early chimney with a projecting shaft on its north face, highlighted as well with glazed bricks, is a rare feature on the Eastern Shore. The interior finishes date to the

(continued)

Survey No. T-54

PS-2746

eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The raised-panel woodwork and the beaded board partitions on the second floor are typical of the mid to late eighteenth century, while the Federal style mantel downstairs dates to the early nineteenth century. The roof structure appears significantly reworked. In spite of its alterations, the Captain's House is included in a small collection (approximately eight) story-and-a-half pre-Revolutionary War dwellings in Talbot County. Whether it was a dependency to a larger dwelling complex, as some historians have speculated, is not certain.

The carriage house and garage are more utilitarian types of buildings that reflect the changes in transportation during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The carriage house stands relatively intact with slightly pedimented door lintels that point to its mid nineteenth-century date. The garage, on the other hand, is a largely utilitarian building distinguished by a steeply pitched hip roof.

Sited along the farm lane entrance to the property is the early nineteenth-century tenant house, called a "quarter" by some historians. The story-and-a-half frame structure, sheathed with beaded weatherboards, was built to house a tenant, an overseer, or perhaps plantation slaves. However, slave dwellings were not built ordinarily with two chimneys, a continuous brick foundation, and beaded siding. In any case the hall/parlor plan structure, located along a subsidiary farm lane, reflects the subordinate position this type of building occupied in relation to the main house.

The farm buildings at the north end of the complex are more standard types of agricultural structures that have been modified through the years with changing farm practices during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The board-and-batten frame barn contributes to the working aspects of the property for stalling horses, but its significance is not as critical as the other buildings due to changes and disrepair. The accompanying corn cribs, typical for the late nineteenth century, are also deteriorating since they are no longer needed in the farming operations on the property. Located near the barn are the two tenant houses which also add to the working nature of the property but are not significant to the historic nature of the complex.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: WYE HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: T-54

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE, AGRICULTURE,
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
CONTACT AND SETTLEMENT - 1570-1750
RURAL AGRARIAN INTENSIFICATION 1680-1815
- 4) Resource Type(s):
DOMESTIC - SINGLE DWELLING
AGRICULTURE - PROCESSING, STORAGE, ANIMAL
FACILITY

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Wye House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Bruffs Island Road, 2.5 miles N.W. of Unionville Road

CITY, TOWN

Easton

— VICINITY OF

First

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Talbot

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Elizabeth Lloyd Schiller

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Wye House

CITY, TOWN

Easton

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21601**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Courthouse

Liber #: 480

Folio #: 420

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

T-54

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Since Wye House is such a well researched and documented building and since it is a National Historic Landmark, there seems little that could be added to the knowledge of the house and accompanying buildings. One small amount of information concerning the "Captains House" which is confirmed in J.D. Tilghman's article, enclosed herewith, is the fact that the building is earlier than the mansion and that it is presently believed to have been used as a kitchen originally, prior to its remodeling in the early 19th century when the building was made over into a dwelling. (see page 91)

According to the Federal Direct Tax of 1798, the Wye House existed as it does today except that the three major parts were connected by passages 16' x 10'. Other buildings taxed included: "milk house, meat house, 2 greenhouses, and 1 hot house (the present orangerie), foul house, carriage house, meat house, old brick kitchen, store house, ice house, steward's house, overseer's house, cooper's shop, blacksmith shop. 3 quarters, necessary house." The "Captains House" could be either the old brick kitchen or the stewards house mentioned in the tax list.

In the 1783 tax assessment, the old brick dwelling house appears to have been standing.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 100-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Not only is Wye House significant architecturally, the people associated with Wye were very important in the fields of politics, military, commerce, agriculture. Wye is also significant due to its landscape and the archeological sites which exist on the property.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Tilghman, J.D., "Wye House," Maryland Historical Magazine,
Baltimore, June, 1953.
Howard, McHenry, "Lloyd Graveyard at Wye House, Talbot County, Maryland,"
Maryland Historical Magazine, Baltimore, March, 1922.
Howard, McHenry, "Wye House, Talbot County, Maryland," Maryland
Historical Magazine, Baltimore, December, 1923.
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

9 Continued

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

Forman, H.C., Tidewater
Maryland, Architectural
Book Publishing Co., New
York, 1956.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael Bourne, Architectural Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

April, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

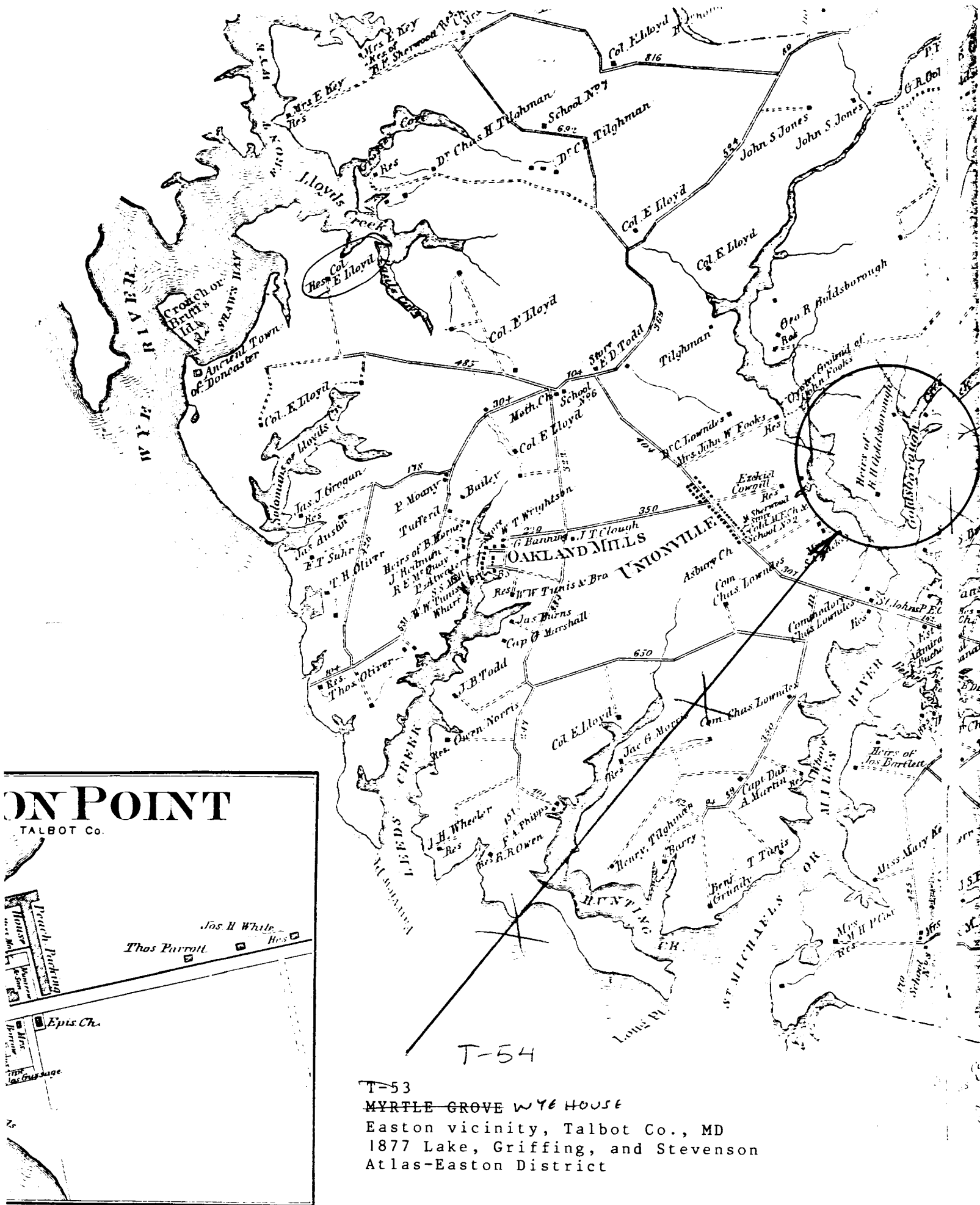
STATE

Maryland 21401

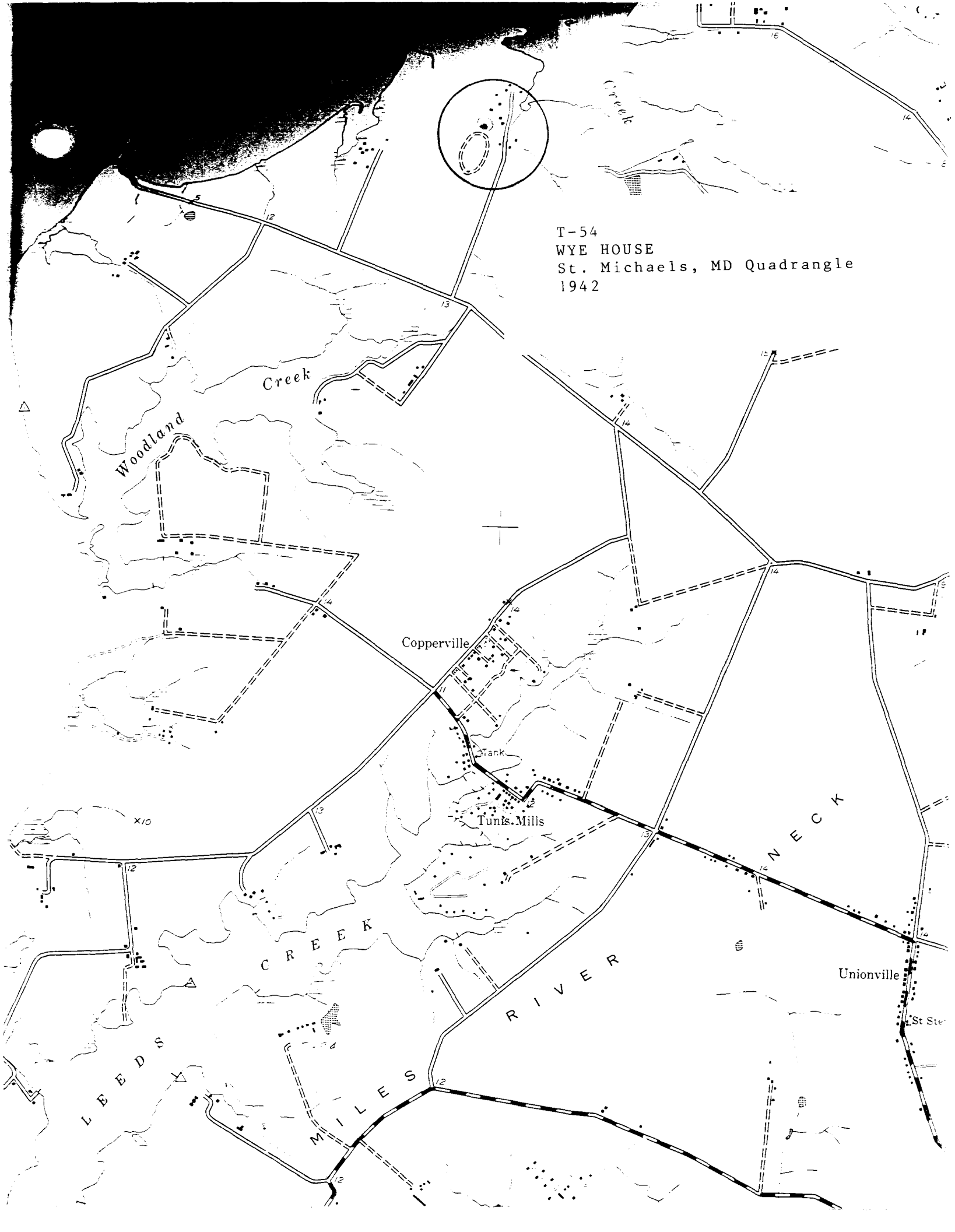
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created
by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the
Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA,
1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information
and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringe-
ment of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



T-54
WYE HOUSE
St. Michaels, MD Quadrangle
1942





Wye House - T-54



Michael O. Boorne

3/1968

Neg - MHT

606-18



Outbuilding at Wye House - T-54



Michael O. Bourne

3/1968

Neg - MHT

606-19



Puppet Theater - Wye House - T-54



Michael O. Bourne

3/1968

Neg-MHT

Property of
Maryland Historical Trust
Library
21 State Circle
Shaw House
Annapolis, MD 21401
DO NOT REMOVE

606-20



CAPTAIN'S House - Wye House - T-54



Michael O. Boone

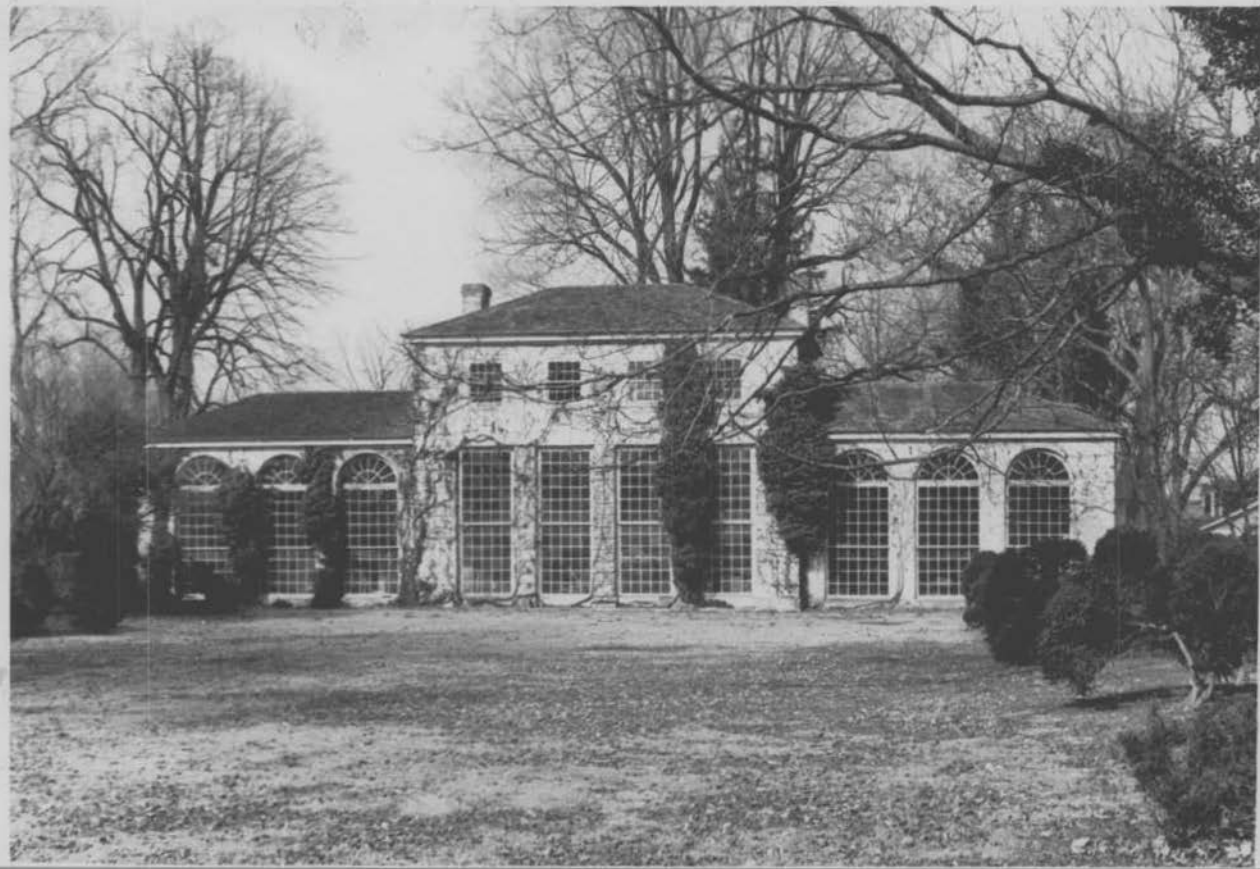
3/1968

Neg - MHT

Property of
Maryland Historical Trust
Library
21 State Circle
Shaw House
Annapolis, MD 21401

DO NOT REMOVE

606-22-909



T-54

Wye House

orangery

Michael O. Bourn

3/1968

Neg-MHT

E-18-4

6876

11x2.02



5.16

68%

Wife House

T 54



Wye House ORANGERY

Michael Bourne, 3/1968

credit: Maryland Historical Trust - Negative



.14 x 2.08

100%

Wye House, "Captain's House"

(2.17)

100%

~~2.17~~

2.17

T-54



12 x 1.17

8196

T-34

Wye House

Dairy

81%

5.17

Copy from original created by
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13 x 1.56

41%



513

19

18

4

41%

~~19~~

Wye House

T-54



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

South elevation

3/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

Barn, southeast elevation

3/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

Dairy, southeast elevation

2/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historial Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

South elevation

3/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

Orangery, south elevation

2/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD
Carriage house, northwest elevation
3/89, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

Tenant house, west elevation

3/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

Tenant house, southwest elevation

3/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

Garage, southwest elevation

3/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

Garage, southwest elevation

3/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

Smokehouse, southwest elevation

2/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

Southeast elevation

2/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

Interior of smokehouse

2/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

Interior of smokehouse

2/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

Interior of smokehouse

2/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

Captain's house, north elevation

3/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD
Captain's house, southeast elevation
3/89, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

Captain's house, southeast elevation

3/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD
Captain's house, first floor hearth
wall

3/89, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD
Captain's house, first floor mantel
3/89, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust



T-54

WYE HOUSE

Easton vicinity, Talbot County, MD

Captain's house, second floor hall

3/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust